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Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

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Report of the Secretary-General**

I. Introduction

1. On 8 December 1998, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/97, entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives". Paragraphs 2 to 13 of the resolution read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"...

"2. *Strongly condemns* acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives of international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, and emphasizes that such acts can never be justified;

"3. *Also strongly condemns* the recent acts of violence against such missions, representatives and officials, referred to in relevant reports under this item;

"4. *Urges* States to strictly observe, implement and enforce the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations and, in particular, to ensure, in conformity with their international obligations, the protection, security and safety of the missions, representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above officially present in territories under their jurisdiction, including practical measures to prohibit in their territories illegal activities of persons, groups and organizations that encourage, instigate, organize or engage in the perpetration of acts against the security and safety of such missions, representatives and officials;

"5. *Also urges* States to take all necessary measures at the national and international levels to prevent any acts of violence against the missions, representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above and to ensure, with the participation of the United Nations, where appropriate, that such acts are fully investigated with a view to bringing offenders to justice;

* A/55/150.

** The present report contains responses from States as at 17 July 2000, the deadline set in the circular note on the subject, dated 17 January 2000.

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"6. *Recommends* that States cooperate closely through, inter alia, contacts between the diplomatic and consular missions and the receiving State with regard to practical measures designed to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives and with regard to the exchange of information on the circumstances of all serious violations thereof;

"7. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures in accordance with international law, at the national and international levels, to prevent any abuse of diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities, in particular serious abuses, including those involving acts of violence;

"8. *Recommends* that States cooperate closely with the State in whose territory abuses of diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities may have occurred, including by exchanging information and providing assistance to its juridical authorities in order to bring offenders to justice;

"9. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the instruments relevant to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives;

"10. *Also calls upon* States, in cases where a dispute arises in connection with a violation of their international obligations concerning the protection of the missions or the security of the representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above, to make use of the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, including the good offices of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General, when he deems it appropriate, to offer his good offices to the States directly concerned;

"11. *Requests* all States to report to the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 42/154 of 7 December 1987;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue a report on the item, in accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 42/154, containing also an analytical summary of the reports received under paragraph 11 above, on an annual basis, as well as to proceed with his other tasks pursuant to the same resolution;

"13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled 'Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives'."

2. By a note dated 17 January 2000, the Secretary-General drew the attention of States to the request contained in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 53/97 and invited them to report to the Secretary-General serious violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

3. The present report is prepared pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 53/97.

4. Section II of the report contains a summary of the reports received and the text of those reports.

5. Section III of the present report contains the comments received from States in response to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 42/154.

6. Section IV of the present report contains information on the status of participation of States, as at 1 June 2000, in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961,[1] the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963[2] and the respective optional protocols thereto, as well as the 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents.[3]

II. Reports received from States pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 53/97

7. **Turkey** submitted a report, dated 4 May 2000, describing acts of violence directed against its consulate premises and the car of the Turkish Counsellor in Greece. The relevant portion of the report reads as follows:

"On 8 February 1999, a bomb exploded in a building under construction opposite the Turkish Consulate General in Komotini, Greece, targeting the consulate premises. Though there was no damage to the premises and no loss of life among the personnel of the consulate, a bomb disposal

specialist of the Greek Police was wounded while defusing the bomb and was hospitalized.

"On 1 April 2000, after midnight, two front tyres of the private car of Mr. Kerem Kiratli, Counsellor of the Turkish Embassy in Athens, were punctured by a sharp tool while parked at a central location on Alexandras Avenue in Athens. The next morning, the car was further damaged by cement thrown on its bonnet, windshield and windows. The fact that these two successive acts directed selectively against Mr. Kiratli's car while other parked cars in the area remained untouched makes it evident that they were carried out on purpose."

8. The report, dated 12 May 2000, submitted by **Denmark** provided information on two incidents in Denmark, one at the Embassy of Greece and the other at the Embassy of the United States of America. The relevant portion of the report reads as follows:

"On 16 February, some 50 activists forcibly entered the Greek Embassy, subsequent to the apprehension of PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan in connection with a sojourn in the Greek Embassy in Nairobi having become known publicly. One activist set herself on fire; 48 were arrested.

"On 27 March, some 2,000 Serbs residing in Denmark demonstrated in front of the Embassy of the United States in protest against Kosovo-related action by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. During the ensuing public disturbance several Embassy windows were damaged."

9. The **Holy See** related in its report dated 22 May 2000, an incident in Papua New Guinea. The report reads as follows:

"On 18 February 2000, an attempt of aggression was committed against His Excellency Archbishop Hans Schwemmer, Apostolic Nuncio in Papua New Guinea, by five armed men who tried to block the Nuncio's car as he was returning to the Nunciature located in Air Niugini village. The attempt was fortunately foiled thanks to the driver's skill and alertness."

10. In response to the report, dated 4 May 2000 submitted by Turkey, reproduced in paragraph 6 above, **Greece** submitted the following response dated 29 June 2000:

"As regards the bomb exploded in a building under construction, on the other side of the road opposite the Turkish Consulate General in Komotini, the competent Greek authorities took all the necessary measures to defuse it, although the target of the bomb was not necessarily the consulate. Neither casualties nor damage were reported, as was acknowledged by the Turkish Consulate. During the efforts to defuse the bomb, a Greek police officer was wounded.

"Concerning the tyre puncture of the car of the Counsellor of the Turkish Embassy in Athens, it should be noted that such acts of vandalism occur in most big cities and are not considered to be of a political nature. It should also be noted that vehicles belonging to staff members of the Turkish Embassy in Athens are provided with conventional licence plates."

11. **Greece** also submitted another report, dated 29 June 2000:

"On 7 December 1999, the apartment of Mrs. Ek. Grabovitis, an employee of the Greek Consulate General in Istanbul, was broken into by unknown persons. Several items were missing, but not valuable ones.

"On 3 January 2000, the apartment of Mr. Ekonomopoulos, an employee of the Greek Embassy in Ankara, had signs of burglary, but none of his personal belongings was missing.

"On 19 February 2000, the Counsellor of the Greek Embassy in Ankara, Mr. C. Moatsos, found many windows of his apartment widely opened, though he had closed them before his departure.

"In March 2000, the maid of the Greek Vice-Consul in Istanbul, Mr. Gikas, discovered that the latter's apartment bore evidence of burglary. Nothing was missing.

"In March 2000, the apartment of Mr. N. Tselios, an employee of the Greek Embassy in Ankara, was broken into. His briefcase had been taken."

12. **Uruguay** reported only minor incidents in its report, dated 10 July 2000:

"No serious incidents were reported in 1999 in relation to diplomatic personnel accredited in Uruguay. Only six investigations were carried out in which diplomatic property or vehicles had been the target of criminal acts: two cases of damage and breakage, three cases of theft and one case where a car had been burnt.

"There were no reports in 1999 of physical attacks on diplomatic personnel accredited in Uruguay.

"In the light of the above, the Government considers that there is an acceptable level of security and safety in Uruguay.

"As for special events (visits by heads of State or Government, royalty, electoral events at foreign consulates, etc.), no incidents have been reported.

"As a measure to improve the security and safety of diplomatic personnel and high-level officials visiting the country, the Government of Uruguay is considering the possibility of establishing a system similar to the security system for the Legislature, with an office located at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be responsible for special guard and protection services and for protecting dignitaries."

13. **Austria, Burkina Faso, Germany** and **Saudi Arabia** reported that there had been no violations during the reporting period.

III. Views received from States pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 42/154

14. By its report, dated 27 April 2000, **Kuwait** provided its views as follows:

"The competent authorities in Kuwait, after careful consideration of this matter, believe that the location of the majority of embassies, diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives in densely populated areas makes the provision of protection very difficult. Problems include the following:

(a) The difficulty of controlling entry into and exit from such areas;

(b) The ease with which third parties may observe and approach embassy buildings;

(c) The difficulty of providing security and control for embassy buildings that are attached to residential buildings;

(d) The difficulty of providing the necessary manpower for security operations for embassies located in a number of different areas throughout the country.

"In view of the foregoing, we consider that a special location should be set aside for embassies, diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives, if the competent authority is to provide the security protection necessary for those institutions and guarantee their safety, and if the duty of all States to make appropriate arrangements to that end is to be fulfilled. On this basis, the host country should locate a number of embassies in one area, thereby facilitating security and control and the provision of measures that will guarantee security protection for the embassies. This will also make them less susceptible to terrorist operations and other dangers, an important consideration in view of the acts of sabotage to which embassies have been subjected in a number of countries in recent years."

15. In a report dated 19 May 2000, **Saudi Arabia** set forth its efforts in this area:

"The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has set aside a whole section of the city of Riyadh for most of the embassies and ambassadorial residences. This section of the city has been carefully planned and contains all the required services. It is particularly secure and is patrolled by security agents around the clock to ensure the protection of diplomatic sites. The same quality of protection is provided for other embassies and delegations on Saudi territory.

"The Kingdom deals with this issue as a patriotic and religious duty according to Islamic teachings and hallowed social traditions. The Prophet Muhammed (P.B.U.H.) said: 'Whoever believes in God and the Day of Judgement will have to treat his guest generously.' A guest has to

be treated with generosity and made to feel safe and welcome. Furthermore, in so doing, the Kingdom complies with international laws and customs.

"Our security services also ensure the safety of Saudi missions abroad. The host countries merely provide routine patrols every now and then.

"The security services follow events around the world and enhance precaution and intensify security measures as the situation may require. The Kingdom cooperates with the rest of the States of the world in combating terrorism.

"The security services in the Kingdom respond positively to requests by foreign embassies and missions to intensify measures at their sites, if required.

"Diplomatic missions in the Kingdom are aware of the efforts of Saudi security services at their locations and have expressed appreciation therefor.

"As a result of the activities of the competent Saudi authorities in this regard, no instance of murder or assault on foreign diplomats or assault on diplomatic missions has ever taken place."

IV. Status of participation in international conventions pertaining to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as at 1 June 2000[4]

16. Each instrument listed below is represented by the letter shown on the left in tables 1 and 2.

A: Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 (signed at Vienna on 18 April 1961; entered into force on 24 April 1964, in accordance with article 51).

B: Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations concerning Acquisition of Nationality of 1961 (signed at Vienna on 18 April 1961; entered into force on 24 April 1964, in accordance with article VI).

C: Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes of 1961 (signed at Vienna on 18 April 1961; entered into force on 24 April 1964).

D: Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 (signed at Vienna on 24 April 1963; entered into force on 19 March 1967, in accordance with article 77).

E: Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations concerning Acquisition of Nationality of 1963 (signed at Vienna on 24 April 1963; entered into force on 19 March 1967).

F: Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes of 1963 (signed at Vienna on 24 April 1963; entered into force on 19 March 1967).

G: Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, of 1973 (adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 December 1973; entered into force on 20 February 1977).

Table 1
Total participation in International Conventions pertaining to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Signature						
A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
61	19	30	49	18	38	26

Ratification, accession or succession						
A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
179	49	62	163	38	45	102

Table 2

Status of participation in International Conventions pertaining to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

State	Signature							Ratification, accession or succession						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Afghanistan								A						
Albania	A							A			D			
Algeria								A			D			
Andorra								A			D			
Angola								A			D			
Antigua and Barbuda											D			G
Argentina	A	B		D		F		A	B		D			G
Armenia								A			D			G
Australia	A			D			G	A		C	D		F	G
Austria	A		C	D		F		A		C	D		F	G
Azerbaijan								A			D			
Bahamas								A		C	D			G
Bahrain								A			D			
Bangladesh								A			D			
Barbados								A			D			G
Belarus	A						G	A			D			G
Belgium	A		C	D		F		A	B	C	D	E	F	
Belize														
Benin				D		F		A			D			
Bhutan								A			D			G
Bolivia				D				A			D			
Bosnia and Herzegovina					E	F		A	B	C	D			G
Botswana								A	B	C				
Brazil	A			D	E			A			D			G
Brunei Darussalam														G
Bulgaria	A						G	A		C	D	E	F	G
Burkina Faso				D		F		A			D		F	
Burundi								A						G
Cambodia								A	B	C				
Cameroon		D	E	F				A			D			G
Canada	A						G	A			D			G
Cape Verde								A			D			
Central African Republic	A	B	C	D		F		A	B	C				
Chad								A						
Chile	A			D		F		A			D			G

State	Signature							Ratification, accession or succession						
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
China								A			D			G
Colombia	A		C	D	E	F		A			D			G
Comoros														
Congo				D	E	F		A						
Cook Islands														
Costa Rica	A			D				A		C	D			G
Côte d'Ivoire				D		F		A						
Croatia								A			D			G
Cuba	A			D				A			D			G
Cyprus								A			D			G
Czech Republic								A			D			G
Democratic People's Republic of Korea								A			D			G
Democratic Republic of the Congo	A			D	E	F		A	B	C	D			G
Denmark	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Djibouti								A			D			
Dominica								A			D			
Dominican Republic	A	B	C	D	E	F		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Ecuador	A		C	D			G	A		C	D			G
Egypt								A	B		D	E		G
El Salvador								A			D			G
Equatorial Guinea								A			D			
Eritrea								A			D			
Estonia								A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Ethiopia								A						
Fiji								A		C	D			
Finland	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
France	A		C	D		F		A		C	D		F	
Gabon				D		F		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Gambia														
Georgia								A			D			
Germany	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Ghana	A	B	C	D	E	F		A			D	E		G
Greece	A							A			D			G
Grenada								A			D			
Guatemala	A						G	A			D			G
Guinea								A	B	C	D			
Guinea-Bissau								A						
Guyana								A			D			

State	Signature							Ratification, accession or succession						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Haiti								A			D			G
Holy See	A			D				A			D			
Honduras								A			D			
Hungary	A						G	A		C	D		F	G
Iceland							G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
India								A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Indonesia								A	B		D	E		
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	A	B	C	D				A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Iraq	A	B	C					A	B	C	D	E		G
Ireland	A		C	D		F		A			D			
Israel	A		C	D				A						G
Italy	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Jamaica								A			D			G
Japan	A		C					A		C	D		F	G
Jordan								A			D			G
Kazakhstan								A			D			G
Kenya								A	B	C	D	E	F	
Kiribati								A			D			
Kuwait				D	E	F		A		C	D			G
Kyrgyzstan								A			D			
Lao People's Democratic Republic								A	B	C	D	E	F	
Latvia								A			D			G
Lebanon	A	B	C	D		F		A			D			G
Lesotho								A			D			
Liberia	A			D	E	F		A			D			G
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya								A	B		D			
Liechtenstein	A		C	D		F		A		C	D		F	G
Lithuania								A			D			
Luxembourg	A		C	D		F		A		C	D		F	
Madagascar								A	B	C	D	E	F	
Malawi								A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Malaysia								A	B	C	D			
Maldives											D			G
Mali								A			D			
Malta								A		C	D			
Marshall Islands								A			D			
Mauritania								A						G
Mauritius								A		C	D		F	

State	Signature							Ratification, accession or succession						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Mexico	A			D				A			D			G
Micronesia (Federated States of)								A			D			
Monaco														
Mongolia							G	A			D			G
Morocco								A	B		D	E		
Mozambique								A			D			
Myanmar								A	B		D			
Namibia								A			D			
Nauru								A						
Nepal								A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Netherlands								A	B	C	D	E	F	G
New Zealand	A		C					A		C	D		F	G
Nicaragua							G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Niger				D		F		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Nigeria	A							A			D			
Niue														
Norway	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Oman								A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Pakistan	A							A		C	D		F	G
Palau														
Panama	A			D	E	F		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Papua New Guinea								A			D			
Paraguay							G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Peru				D		F		A			D			G
Philippines	A	B	C	D		F		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Poland	A			D			G	A			D			G
Portugal								A			D			G
Qatar								A			D			G
Republic of Korea	A	B	C					A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Republic of Moldova								A			D			G
Romania	A						G	A			D			G
Russian Federation	A						G	A			D			G
Rwanda							G	A			D			G
Saint Kitts and Nevis														
Saint Lucia								A			D			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines								A			D			
Samoa								A			D			
San Marino	A							A						

State	Signature							Ratification, accession or succession						
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
Sao Tome and Principe								A			D			
Saudi Arabia								A			D			
Senegal	A	B						A			D	E	F	
Seychelles								A		C	D		F	G
Sierra Leone								A						
Singapore														
Slovakia								A		C	D		F	G
Slovenia								A		C	D			G
Solomon Islands														
Somalia								A			D			
South Africa	A							A			D			
Spain								A			D			G
Sri Lanka	A							A	B	C				G
Sudan								A			D			G
Suriname								A	B	C	D	E	F	
Swaziland								A						
Sweden	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Switzerland	A		C	D		F		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Syrian Arab Republic								A	B		D	E		G
Tajikistan								A			D			
Thailand	A	B						A	B		D	E		G
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia								A	B	C	D			G
Togo								A			D			G
Tonga								A			D			
Trinidad and Tobago								A			D			G
Tunisia							G	A	B		D	E		G
Turkey								A			D			G
Turkmenistan								A			D			G
Tuvalu								A			D			
Uganda								A						
Ukraine	A						G	A			D			G
United Arab Emirates								A			D			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A		C	D		F	G	A		C	D		F	G
United Republic of Tanzania	A	B	C					A	B	C	D			
United States of America	A		C	D		F	G	A		C	D		F	G
Uruguay	A			D		F		A			D			G

State	Signature							Ratification, accession or succession						
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*
Uzbekistan								A			D			G
Vanuatu											D			
Venezuela	A			D				A			D			
Viet Nam								A			D			
Yemen								A			D			G
Yugoslavia	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	D			G
Zambia								A						
Zimbabwe								A			D			

Notes

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 500, No. 7310, p. 95.

[2] Ibid., vol. 596, No. 8638, p. 261.

[3] General Assembly resolution 3166 (XXVIII), annex.

[4] For detailed information, see relevant chapters of *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General — Status as at 31 December 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.V.2); see also the Internet address http://www.un.org./Depts/Treaty/bible.htm.